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Approved for Release
Date DEC 1996

WARNING: ATTN BANGKOK AE
ATTN BANGKOK LOCAL
SERIAL: BK2007064491
PASS: ATTN POL .
COUNTRY: CAMBODIA
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTRY -- NO U.S. SOLDIERS IN CAMBODIA
REF: BK1907121191 HONG KONG AFP ENGLISH 191137 -- DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DISMISSES MIA SIGHTINGS
SOURCE: PHNOM PENH SPK IN FRENCH 0434 GMT 20 JUL 91
TEXT:

((TEXT)) PHNOM PENH 20 JUL (SPK) -- CAMBODIAN OFFICIALS REAFFIRMED ON FRIDAY 19 JULY THAT NO SINGLE AMERICAN SOLDIER MISSING IN ACTION SINCE THE VIETNAMESE WAR REMAINED IN THE COUNTRY, ADDING THAT PHNOM PENH WAS PREPARED TO CARRY OUT ANY NECESSARY VERIFICATIONS.

"I DO NOT THINK THAT IT IS TRUE," DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PHI THACH TOLD AFP, COMMENTING ON A PHOTOGRAPH PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES THAT SUPPOSEDLY SHOWS THREE AMERICAN WAR PRISONERS WHO ARE PRESUMABLY STILL RETAINED IN CAMBODIA. "WE HAVE ALREADY DECLARED THAT THERE IS NO U.S. SERVICEMAN STILL ALIVE IN CAMBODIA," THE DEPUTY MINISTER STRESSED.

THE THREE AMERICAN PILOTS WERE SHOT DOWN BETWEEN 1966 AND 1970 IN VIETNAM OR LAOS.

IN BANGKOK, VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR NGUYEN TRUNG, FOR HIS PART, PLAYED DOWN THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE PHOTOGRAPH, REITERATING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT DETAIN ANY AMERICAN WAR PRISONER AT ALL.

THE PHOTOGRAPH OF THE THREE WESTERNERS WAS FOUND IN A CAMBODIAN REFUGEE CAMP IN THAILAND, THEN SENT TO UNITED STATES, RELIABLE INFORMED THAI SOURCES SAID.

ACCORDING TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, 2,273 SOLDIERS HAVE OFFICIALLY BEEN DECLARED MISSING IN INDOCHINA -- INCLUDING 1,656 IN VIETNAM, 83 IN CAMBODIA, AND SIX IN THE INDOCHINESE TERRITORIAL WATER.

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